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2. ICELANDIC PRO-COMMUNISTS REPORTEDLY OFFERED PLACE IN NEW GOVERNMENT

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[REDACTED] Progressive Party chairman Hermann Jonasson has been authorized by the Progressive and Social Democratic parties to attempt to form a cabinet which

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would give equal representation to the Communist-dominated Labor Alliance [REDACTED]

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The embassy comments that such a government, if formed, would probably include the two "non-Communist" left-wing Social Democratic members elected by the Labor Alliance, with the Communists themselves remaining in the background. The outcome of the negotiations will depend in large part on the price the Communists are willing to pay to gain representation for the Labor Alliance in the government.

The embassy adds that Communist representation under such a guise would constitute no less a danger for Western interests than outright Communist participation.

Comment

The alliance of these three parties, all of which campaigned for the withdrawal of American troops from the Keflavik air base, would give them 33 out of the 52 seats in the Althing. The Progressives and Social Democrats attacked the Labor Alliance in the 24 June elections, however, and there are important elements in both of these non-Communist parties which would be opposed to close working relations with the Communists.

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3. JAPANESE SOCIALISTS GAIN IN UPPER HOUSE ELECTION

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The Japanese Socialist Party claims that its gains in the upper house election on 8 July are the result of the party's anti-American policy which emphasized the Okinawan land controversy and opposition

to both American bases and rearmament. The Socialists have won 28 of the 75 district contests for the upper chamber of the Diet, a gain of six, while the conservative Liberal-Democratic Party won 42, the Japan Communist Party one, and Independents four.

The trend toward the Socialists is also likely to appear in returns for the 52 national constituency seats, thereby giving the Socialists a good chance to control one third of the upper house in conjunction with other leftist elements. This will enable them to block constitutional amendments to legalize rearmament for the next three years.

The Liberal-Democrats, however, appear assured of a majority since they have 61 seats among the 123 not at stake in this election and are generally supported by a number of independent groups. Their prospects for winning a two-thirds majority seem remote. The government party may have suffered more than the Socialists from popular dissatisfaction over the violence which occurred at the last Diet session.

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6. POLISH AMBASSADOR IN PARIS COMMENTS ON POLISH SITUATION

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Stanislaw Gajewski, the Polish ambassador to France, in a discussion of the Poznan riots with the American and Italian ambassadors on 5 July,

stated that there are serious differences of opinion and contests for power under way within the Polish government and Communist Party. He said that those elements in the party that believe it should evolve into a national party not subservient to Moscow have the best chance of winning out, but he fears their opponents will attempt to use the riots as an excuse to return to a harsh policy. He expressed the view that it would not be in the best interests of the West to do anything which would give ammunition to those who wish to return to a Stalinist, pro-Russian policy.

Gajewski added that since the publication of the Khrushchev speech he is prepared to believe anything about the Soviets and that he would not defend the actions of the USSR. While he is a Communist, he said, he is a Pole first with the historic feelings of a Pole toward Russia.

Comment

Gajewski, who first joined the Communist Party after the war, is expressing views similar to those of many Polish Communists who have been pushing for more liberal policies and who have probably feared that the riots would result in a return to repression. The regime intends to punish the "ringleaders" of the riots. At the same time, it has made economic concessions to the Poznan workers and has promised that its liberalization program will continue.

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 9 July)

New violence is reported on the already tense Israeli-Jordan border. Two Israeli civilians died on 9 July in an ambush attack near the border south of the Dead Sea and a Jordan civilian was reported killed in an exchange of gunfire between Israeli and Jordan forces near Jerusalem.

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